

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 has been amended. A listing of the claims follows and replaces all prior listing of the claims.

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A process of cleaning a semiconductor manufacturing system having a reaction chamber and a substrate-supporting electrode provided inside the reaction chamber, a substrate being located on the substrate-supporting electrode when forming a semiconductor film on the substrate, the process comprising:

positioning an insulating cover on the substrate-supporting electrode in tight contact with the substrate-supporting electrode; and

supplying a fluoride-based cleaning gas into the reaction chamber and generating a plasma in the reaction chamber; and

supplying an H₂-based cleaning gas into the reaction chamber and generating another plasma in the reaction chamber.

Claim 2 (Original): The process of cleaning as set forth in claim 1, wherein the fluoride-based cleaning gas is one of NF₃, CF₄, C₃F₈, C₂F₆, and ClF₃.

Claim 3 (Original): The process of cleaning as set forth in claim 1, wherein the positioning of the insulating cover in tight contact with the substrate-supporting electrode comprises placing the insulating cover on the substrate-supporting electrode, and applying a voltage to the substrate-supporting electrode.

Claim 4 (Withdrawn): A process of cleaning a semiconductor manufacturing system having a reaction chamber and a substrate-supporting electrode provided inside the reaction chamber, with a substrate being placed on the substrate-supporting electrode when forming a semiconductor film on the substrate, the process comprising:

positioning an insulating cover on the substrate-supporting electrode;

supplying a fluoride-based cleaning gas into the reaction chamber, and supplying at least one of an inert gas and a fluorine-reducing gas into the reaction chamber from an approximate center of the substrate-supporting electrode through a gap between the insulating cover and the substrate-supporting electrode, a pressure in the gap being maintained to be higher than a pressure in the reaction chamber; and

generating a plasma in the reaction chamber.

Claim 5 (Withdrawn): The process of cleaning as set forth in claim 4, wherein the fluoride-based cleaning gas is one of NF_3 , CF_4 , C_3F_8 , C_2F_6 , and ClF_3 .

Claim 6 (Withdrawn): The process of cleaning as set forth in claim 4, wherein the fluorine-reducing gas is H_2 or NH_3 .

Claim 7 (Withdrawn): The process of cleaning as set forth in claim 4, wherein the inert gas is He gas.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn): A process of cleaning a semiconductor manufacturing system having a reaction chamber and a substrate-supporting electrode provided inside the reaction chamber, with a substrate being placed on the substrate-supporting electrode when forming a semiconductor film on the substrate, the process comprising:

positioning an insulating cover on the substrate-supporting electrode;

supplying a fluoride-based cleaning gas into the reaction chamber and then generating a plasma in the reaction chamber;

removing the insulating cover from the substrate-supporting electrode to expose a surface of the substrate-supporting electrode; and

supplying a fluorine-reducing gas into the reaction chamber and generating a plasma.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): The process of cleaning as set forth in claim 8, wherein the fluoride-based cleaning gas is one of NF_3 , CF_4 , C_3F_8 , C_2F_6 , and ClF_3 .

Claim 10 (Withdrawn): The process of cleaning as set forth in claim 8, wherein the fluorine-reducing gas is H_2 or NH_3 .

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): A process of cleaning a semiconductor manufacturing system having a reaction chamber and a substrate-supporting electrode provided inside the reaction chamber, with a substrate being placed on the substrate-supporting electrode when forming a semiconductor film on the substrate, the process comprising:

positioning an insulating cover on the substrate-supporting electrode;

supplying a fluoride-based cleaning gas into the reaction chamber and generating a plasma in the reaction chamber;

supplying a fluorine-reducing gas into the reaction chamber and then generating a plasma;

removing the insulating cover from the substrate-supporting electrode to expose a surface of the substrate-supporting electrode; and

forming a silicon oxide film containing an excessive amount of silicon on the surface of the substrate-supporting electrode.

Claim 12 (Original): The process of cleaning as set forth in claim 11, wherein the fluoride-based cleaning gas is one of NF_3 , CF_4 , C_3F_8 , C_2F_6 , and ClF_3 .

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): The process of cleaning as set forth in claim 11, wherein the fluorine-reducing gas is H_2 or NH_3 .

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): A process of cleaning a semiconductor manufacturing system having a reaction chamber and a substrate-supporting electrode provided inside the reaction chamber, with a substrate being placed on the substrate-supporting electrode when forming a semiconductor film on the substrate, the process comprising:

supplying hydrogen gas and an inert gas into the reaction chamber and generating a plasma when the semiconductor manufacturing system is in a standby condition before loading the substrate into the reaction chamber.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): The process of cleaning as set forth in claim 14, wherein the inert gas is Ar gas or He gas.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn): The process of cleaning as set forth in claim 14, further comprising generating a plasma with the substrate-supporting electrode immediately before loading the substrate into the reaction chamber.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn): The process of cleaning as set forth in claim 16, wherein the plasma is generated with the substrate-supporting electrode at an output power of 100-200W.

Claim 18 (Previously presented): A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device comprising:

carrying out a cleaning process according to claim 1;
setting the substrate on the substrate-supporting electrode in the reaction chamber;
supplying a raw material gas into the reaction chamber; and
generating a plasma to form a semiconductor film on the substrate.

Claim 19 (Original): The process of cleaning as set forth in claim 1, wherein the positioning of the insulating cover in tight contact with the substrate-supporting electrode comprises placing the insulating cover on the substrate-supporting electrode, and clamping the insulating cover to the substrate-supporting electrode by a mechanical element.